

REMARKS

The Amendment

Claims 1,5,8,15,17 and 20 were amended to specifically claim inventions related to polynucleotide sequences identified by SEQ ID NO:29 and 31. This amendment is supported, for example, by disclosure in Table 25 at page 238, and Table 26 at pages 251-252.

Other amendments to the claims are minor and believed to be explained by their context.

No new matter is added in any of the above amendments. The Examiner is requested to enter the amendment and reconsider the application.

The Response

In response to the Office Action mailed November 20, 2003, Applicants elect with traverse Group I drawn to nucleic acids, vectors, host cells, and nucleic acid hybridization assays.

With respect to Group I claims that include more than one individual, independent and distinct nucleotide sequences, Applicants elect, with traverse, polynucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 31.

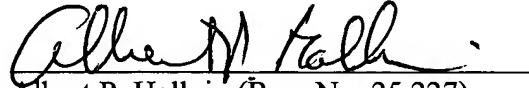
Applicants have amended claims 1-21 so that they are directed to nucleic acids identified by SEQ ID NO:29 and 31, and the polypeptides encoded by these nucleic acids (SEQ ID NO:30 and 32). Applicants reserve their right to pursue claims to involving other nucleic acids and polypeptides disclosed in Tables 1-26. In view of the present amendments, however, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of claims 1-21 may be readily searched without undue burden. Consequently, Applicants believe that the current restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the application is in good and proper condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (650) 463-8109.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 20, 2004



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